

WEDNESDAY
December 1, 1999

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Happy Holidays



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THE TRAIL BLAZER

Volume LXIII, Number 12

Morehead State University

Morehead, Kentucky

Scott Charity scores
career high 25 points

Basketball hosts
EKU Saturday

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Photo by Debra Petkus-Perry

Junior David Chaltas, left, and freshman Derrick Adams check out the decorations on the Christmas tree in ADUC lobby. The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony is set for 6 p.m., Thursday in front of Fields Hall.

Former student may get death penalty in shooting

BY DEBRA PETKUS-PERRY
EDITOR

The death penalty will be sought for a former MSU student charged with murder.

The state will seek the death penalty for Kevin Ryan Donohue, 20, of Rock Fork Road, Morehead, Tennessee, on or about November 6.

Donohue is accused of shooting Appleton with a revolver. The motive was not determined at the time of Donohue's Nov. 12 arrest, but according to court indictment documents filed by Commonwealth Attorney George W. Moore on Nov. 19, "The offender committed the offense of murder for himself, or another, for the purpose of receiving money or for other profit."

Donohue pleaded not guilty. A pre-trial conference has been sched-

uled for July 7, 2000, and a Jury trial is scheduled to begin August 14, 2000.

A million dollar bond was rescinded because murder is a Capital Offense. Donohue remains at the Rowan County Detention Center.

Freshman indicted in local murder case

BY DEBRA PETKUS-PERRY
EDITOR

An MSU student has an outstanding warrant for her arrest in connection with the murder of a Tennessee man on or about November 6.

Abney Muth, a Letcher County freshman who lived at Butler Hall, is being linked to the murder by tampering with physical evidence.

Muth and Morehead resident

Donohue, who was enrolled and withdrew from MSU in the Fall of 1998, was also charged with tampering with physical evidence by concealing the body of Appleton.

Appleton's body was discovered in the trunk of a car parked at Morehead Estates on November 12.

Aaron Howard, 18, was indicted by the Rowan County Grand Jury Nov. 19 for tampering. With physical evidence when they allegedly concealed a gun, clothing and other physical evidence involved in the shooting death of Daniel Boyd Appleton, of Clarksville, Tenn., according to indictment records.

Kevin R. Donohue, 20,

See INDICTED, page 2

Students say SGA ignoring real campus issues

BY EMILY R. MOSES
MANAGING EDITOR

The Student Government Association is a governing body charged with representing MSU's students and with providing leadership on issues affecting them. But some students say SGA isn't doing its job.

Freshman non-traditional student Curtis Baker says SGA is not in touch with issues important to students.

Baker says SGA needs to stop avoiding issues that affect students, like parking.

"The parking trauma is a major

issue," Baker says.

"I've been here for only two semesters and since I've been here I've heard a lot about the overall of parking spaces," Baker says.

Junior Terrell Thornton says he thinks SGA members are doing their job acting as the voice of the students but he would like to see them gear more programs toward minority students.

"Right now it's geared more toward the popular organizations on campus," he says.

He says he would also like to see more activities for minorities that would balance out SGA's schedule for activities and entertainment.

"Right now it seems like 100 to 1," he says.

"I'm not saying make it fifty-fifty, there aren't enough black students for that, but there are a lot of foreign students and they need programs for them too," Thornton says.

Baker says there are other issues like these that SGA needs to find a solution for or at least take a stand on in representing the students.

"SGA should be a group of people striving to speak for the student body as a whole," Baker says.

"It shouldn't be a popularity contest."

Senior Misty DeLong says she

thinks SGA wastes a lot of money, but thinks they also have some positive effect on the campus community.

DeLong says the tree-lighting ceremony that SGA sponsors with SGA and the Greek organizations is a good way to involve the faculty with the students. She also appreciates the SGA-sponsored Career Days.

"The Career Days are very beneficial," she says. "They helped me to form my resume and get it on-line and that's a very important."

DeLong says her biggest problem with SGA is the allocation of funds.

"Taking our money and having

SGA go on a fun retreat doesn't benefit the students," DeLong says.

"I would like to see SGA put together activities that involve all of campus," she says. "I would like to see all groups come together, not just Greeks. It's not fair that just certain people benefit from SGA."

DeLong, a social science major, says SGA needs to focus on promoting education and student retention as well as entertainment.

"They should be key in initiating a 24-hour computer lab and library," she says. "It would take funding but SGA could get the backing."

DeLong says the library needs

more resources as well.

"Most every history major or minor has to research somewhere else, we just don't have it here," she says.

"The library needs to be a resource-based institution," she says. She says the SGA needs to focus on important issues like these.

But SGA President Brandon Friley says SGA is concerned with the students' wants and needs.

Friley says SGA recognizes the parking issue as a definite student concern but he doesn't know the

See SGA page 2

MSU training middle school teachers to fill void

BY CARLA MCCLEESSE
STAFF WRITER

A statewide shortage of qualified middle-grade teachers has become a problem for Kentucky and the state's institutions of higher education, including MSU, are trying to do something about it.

The issue is also becoming a problem on the national level, MSU Education Professor Dr. Mary Ann Pollock said.

If more students do not choose to teach middle-grades, Pollock said, institutions will probably begin hiring people not fully qualified to a situation special education is already experiencing.

Part of the problem in education is the division of state levels of certification. Currently, the divisions are primary through five, five through nine, and eight through 12.

Therefore, teachers certified to teach the middle grades can also teach fifth and ninth grades, an option most of these teachers seem to be taking.

"Teachers are not choosing middle school education," Pollock said.

"Small county school principals face having to hire teachers who are qualified to only teach certain areas, such as math and science, and often principals do not have enough of a work load for the teachers."

Pollock, along with others in the MSU education program, have been developing incentives to bring more students to middle-grade teaching and studying why other students already in the middle-grade level chose their field.

Josh McMacinn, an MSU student teacher at Rowan County

Middle school, said he chose to teach middle school because of past coaching experience.

McMacinn said he grew fond of the age group and has no problem working with middle schoolers.

"I learned about their characteristics, and the more I study them, the more I learn about that transitional time in life," McMacinn said.

The biggest challenge McMacinn finds in teaching middle grades is trying to relate to all students.

"All students learn in a different manner, some by hands-on, some by visual, some by audio, but I try to bring what I am teaching down to their level," he said.

McMacinn sees the importance

See MIDDLE page 2



Photo by Amanda Kitchen

MSU student teacher Josh McMacinn helps seventh-grader Shane Middleton during a portfolio conference.

Integration of campus organizations should be goal

This is the fourth in a series that looks at the status of minorities on the MSU campus.

BY BETH CRACE
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

As students at MSU segregated? From the cafeteria and other student areas in ADUC to fraternities, sororities and campus events, many students complain about the lack of integration among students and student organizations.

Student Organizations and Greek

Advisor David Cox says there is a lack of communication between the sorority and fraternity governing bodies.

Cox says African American fraternities and sororities are governed by the National Pan-Hellenic Council, while fraternities are governed by the Interfraternity Council and white sororities are governed by the Panhellenic Council.

Senior Annie Burns, an African American student and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, says

there isn't enough participation in events between the NPHC and the IFC.

She says, "We really don't interact with each other. We get involved in (fraternity) parties, but we feel like outsiders because there aren't many black Greeks. Also, only a handful of black Greeks get an invitation."

While, by chance, none of the Greek organizations restrict membership according to race, only a handful of black students apply for membership in traditional white frat-

ternities and sororities.

Burns says having a minority can be intimidating if it comes to interacting with other student organizations and can lead to segregation.

She says, "When I'm in class all day, I don't see a lot of people who are members of my race. When I go to a party it's nice to see people from the same ethnic group as me."

Burns also says she likes to hear different types of music, which often aren't played at white fraternity par-

ties.

Senior Natasha Barker, a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, says the segregation among student organizations is a problem and it is difficult to overcome.

She says, "African American fraternities and sororities have smaller numbers because Morehead has a small population of African American students. This makes it harder to be visible on campus."

Cox says the lack of communication among all Greek groups only

greatens the segregation.

"I think a part of it is that the different groups cause themselves to be segregated. They have three separate governing boards. We don't get the IFC, NPHC and Panhellenic councils together enough," says Cox.

Both Barker and Cox say improving the communication lines between student organizations would be a tremendous help in ending the division between them.

See GOAL page 2

Dispel millennium fear and predictions of end of world, life goes on

BY DEBRA PETUSKE-PERRY
EDITOR

Many people have gotten caught up in the millennium madness—canceling travel plans, expecting eminent doom, or squinting away supplies in the event the world goes off-line in a hand basket. But for others, the world's end is the last thing on their minds.

Carter County's Spanish Manor Inn and Wedding Chapel stands ready to perform special New Year's

Eve Weddings.

In early April couples around the globe reportedly put processing first on their todo list in an effort to have the first infant of the millennium and the universe. The target date was April 9.

For others, it came naturally. MSU grad students Mingchen Xia and Lei Wang are at MSU working on MBA degrees. The couple, from China, are also expecting their first child on January 1.

Mom Mingchen said they will

have their baby at a local hospital, and are not worried about much in the delivery room, other than normal first-baby anxiety.

And the word in China, Wang said, is that there will be "no serious problems," with the computer systems in use at the new century dawn and dates go from 1999 to 2000.

As far as stocking supplies, the only thing married non-traditionals seem to be holding is diapers.

First-time parents John and

LaRonda Hoskins have a January 8 due date for their son, but everyone says they won't be surprised if the babe comes earlier.

The Hoskins have received millennium related baby items, T-shirts and bibs from friends for their first baby.

They also express no fear of what may happen come the changing of the millennium guard.

"That is the farthest thing from my mind," said LaRonda. She said

her nervousness has nothing to do with the millennium, just new-mother jitters.

John said "I don't worry about it." He said the potential Y2K bug

problem has been so publicized, "there's no excuse for it not to be fixed."

Besides, Hoskins said, "Their were babies born before electricity."

Merry X'mas From...



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GOAL, from front

"The white Greeks need to get out and support the black Greeks more. They tend to forget they even exist at times," says Cox.

Junior Terrell Thornton, an African American student, says his fraternity, Iota Phi Theta, has developed several philanthropy projects in order to incorporate the entire community of Morehead.

Thornton says, "Our philanthropy projects are for the people. It doesn't matter if they're rich or poor or what color their skin is. Our fraternity is about helping people of all races and nationalities."

Thornton says his fraternity encourages interaction among all groups on campus.

MIDDLE, from front

of middle school teachers knowing their subjects well because "even at that age, they can see through you and can tell if you don't know what you are teaching."

"The more you work with the age group and see what they like, the more you will be able to incorporate what you learn from them in lessons."

McMackin said, "As you relate with them, they will see you as not only a teacher, but someone who is taking an interest in them."

Pollack said some students are

SGA, from front

answer.

"Students have talked about the parking issue as long as I've been here," Fraley says.

Fraley says SGA isn't always aware of the issues that students view as problems because the majority of the student body doesn't attend SGA meetings.

Fraley says he is disappointed by the lack of student interest in SGA.

"It's easy to sit back and say 'I don't like this program or how my money is being spent' but until they come in and say something, we don't know," Fraley says.

Fraley says SGA is currently compiling results from a student survey in which all-night study areas were addressed. But Fraley says a 24-hour library is not likely right now

choosing middle-grade education because they know there is a national shortage of teachers in that area, which increases their chances of finding a job quickly after graduation. Others just recognize the need.

Jeanette Cantrell, another middle-grade education major, attends classes at MSU's Big Sandy extended campus program in Prestonsburg and has recently been accepted in the Teacher Education Program.

Cantrell said her attention was drawn to middle-grade education

partly due to the decrease of students entering the program.

"The classes for middle-grade education at Big Sandy did not make because there were not enough students to fill the classes, and this reinforced my decision to teach middle-grade education," Cantrell said.

Cantrell is so dedicated to middle-grade education that she will be commuting this spring as she begins taking core classes on campus at MSU.

because of monetary reasons.

"If the all-night study areas are well received that could eventually lead into a 24-hour library," he says. "We would certainly make a big push for it."

Delong says she would also like to see SGA become an ally with the faculty.

"They should support good professors on campus and help to get rid of the bad ones," she says.

"I don't want to sound militant, but I'm graduating in May and so many things could have helped me," Delong says.

"They can be the key if they'll just do it."

Fraley says in the future he hopes to see more students attend SGA meetings to voice their concerns.

Students will soon have another alternative to sound off to SGA.

"On our new website there will be a section for students to voice their concerns and make suggestions," Fraley says.

Fraley says if students are really dissatisfied with SGA they should show up at SGA elections.

"If they really want to make a difference then vote someone into office."

INDICTED, from front

Morehead, has been charged with the murder.

Howard, 18, of Marindale Drive, was arrested Nov. 23, and remains in the Rowan County Detention Center on a \$2,500 cash bond.

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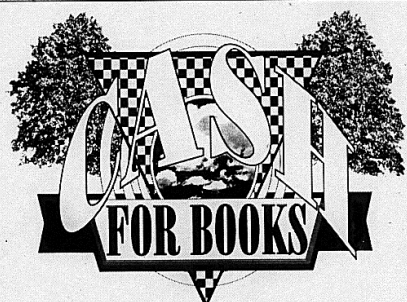
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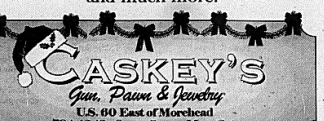
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EDITORIALS

Models sell gametes; cause moral dilemma

A new opportunity has surfaced on the Internet. If you are an infertile couple you can bid on the eggs and sperm of models on the Internet at a website called Ron's Angels. Has it come so far that we are going to play God when creating our children. It is a scary prospect that if you have enough money you can buy a designer baby.

Right now, there are six female models and one male model auctioning off eggs and sperm. So far, the bidding has ranged from \$15,000 to \$150,000. Eggs are available from models with various assets, including a university student with a double major in psychology and sociology and a university student with a 4.0 GPA and an IQ of around 170 who learned to read at age three and started doing calculus at the age of seven. The sperm comes from a model from the Ford model agency who claims to be mainly a businessman and says the achievement he is most proud of is that he has "never compromised his moral values or his soul." Say what?

The models vary in appearance but all are beautiful people. Listed in their descriptions is their age, height, weight, bust/waist/hip measurements, ethnic background and their school grade. Thus far, the woman with the lowest grade but the best looks has received the highest bid of \$150,000.

Most claim they are selling their fertility to help out parents who can't have children. If that is the case, then give up your gametes for free! The opportunists must just admit they have found a way to make a quick buck off their beauty and their bodies.

The creator of the website writes, "This is the first society to truly comprehend how important beautiful genes are to our evolution. Just watch television and you will see that we are only interested in looking at beautiful people."

The site reads basically like a shopping list. Is this what we really want? Will we soon be able to go to a doctor and pick out the traits we want our children to have and have him whip up the child we always dreamed of? Our imperfections, individuality and the things that make us beautiful and different, not how blonde our hair is, how blue our eyes are or how flat our stomachs may be. If we were all beautiful and looked the same what a boring place the world would be.

Think about the majority of people who have made major breakthroughs that have propelled our society forward. If the baby-to-order method had been in place a century ago we likely wouldn't have had Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Marie Curie. None of them would have won a beauty contest by today's standards. But we all respect them and revere them for what they accomplished.

What Ron's Angels is doing resembles a lot what Hitler tried to do through his brutal, Nazi baby-making schemes. Is this what we want for our world?

G.K.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses and opinions in its Letters column. Letters should be 400 words or less, signed, and include the writer's address and phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in The Trail Blazer office (Room 136, Waterfield Hall) by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication. Letters are printed as received. However, The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit for clarity, brevity and legal considerations.

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Commentary

Editor learns lessons from college career

BY GARY KENNON
OPINION EDITOR

As the end of the semester grows near, I find myself approaching the end of much trepidation. This being my final semester at MSU, I find myself spending a lot of time reminiscing about my four and a half years of college life. As graduation day creeps up on me, I can't help but be sad.

I know this is supposed to be the happiest time of my life but I am closing the book on the best moments I've ever had. How do you say good-bye to four and a half years? I wish I had a remote control and could rewind my college career so I could relive it all over again, the good times and the bad. This has truly been a grand learning experience both in and out of the classroom.

I know I may sound like one of the biggest clichés ever, but I can't help it. All these movies and television shows that demonstrate how college is the best time of your life were not exaggerating a bit. Enjoy your time here because it will be so much shorter than you can ever comprehend. Just when you start to get truly comfortable with what you are doing here, it's over.

The things I have experienced and accomplished, I don't believe I ever could have imagined five years ago. The following is a list of what I consider as the ten most important things, some obvious and some not so obvious, I have learned from my personal adventures at MSU.

1. Of course, first off, I learned job skills. Not only did I learn a field of study but I can get a job in that field. I truly think that is amazing in itself.
2. I learned how to manage. The administration may not like it or want to admit it but college is a time to party. When you get out in the real world, you really don't have time to party like you do during your college years. While here at MSU I had the experience of getting drunk

for the first time and, in turn, passing out and hitting my head on the toilet for the first time.

3. I learned about friendship. Never have I had such a large group of friends. When you're in college you make friends quickly and you get close even faster. Not only did my experience at The Trail Blazer give me a great group of friends but "residence hall" living gave me a very unique group of friends as well. I'll never forget any of them. And I'll be a better person for knowing all my friends.

4. From my friendships, I have also learned about loss of friendship. Getting close to a group of friends at college can be very painful because inevitably you will have to leave them or they will leave you. One by one, they graduate. A few keep in touch but it is the exception and it makes me sad just to think about it.

5. I learned that college is a time to do what you want. If you want to conform to society that's okay and if you want to rebel that's okay too. It's acceptable during college either way. While here I have dyed my hair, gotten pierced and gotten tattooed. Things that will stay with me forever. But, that is my choice and I did it for me and not anyone else. No one looks down on me

because of it. It's all part of learning who you truly are. This lesson also applies to classes. Take the classes you want to take. Fun classes make the college experience that much better and helps alleviate burnout.

6. I learned to be spontaneous. I'll never forget the late night trips to Smokey Valley or Lokege for no reason except to go. If you want to pick up and take a road trip, do it. If you want to go to the woods and play flag tag in the middle of the night, do it.

8. I learned why a crush is called a crush. Never before have I felt more than falling in love with somebody and then not ever being able to know. You don't want to hurt a friendship but at the same time the feelings utterly destroy you from the inside. It is called a crush because your heart is weighed down and crushed by the emotion you feel that is unable to be reciprocated.

9. I learned to live every day as if it were my last. I lost my father to a massive heart attack little more than a year ago. It was totally unexpected and shattered the lives of everyone in my family. But a day goes by that I don't think about him for some reason or other. From this experience of pain and loss I

learned to cherish the time I have with friends and family. I never know when it may end.

10. Finally, one of the most important lessons that I have learned from college is self-acceptance and basically who I am. After a long time of self-loathing and hatred I have learned that I am okay. It doesn't matter what you look like, who you hang out with, what major you have, who you sleep with, or even who you fall in love with just as long as you're happy and love yourself.

I honestly feel like I could write a book about my college experience. Maybe one day I will. I already have a title for it. It will be called simply "I Lived" because that is exactly how I feel. I entered college as one person who was barely alive and now I'm living as someone totally different. All the while I didn't even realize it was happening to me.

Now, I just want to say good-bye to all my friends and thank you for all the good times. I hope I have made a difference in your lives in some way or another. You all have touched a place in my heart I never knew I had.

And now I must also pass the opinion writing torch on to the next opinion editor. Goodluck.

Letters to the Editor

They like us! They really like us!

At some time or another each one of us has heard criticisms of The Trail Blazer. These criticisms were both positive and negative. We decided to let you know how we feel toward the newspaper. We think the staff this semester has done a great job producing the paper. We know that

each individual staff member puts in quite a bit of time and effort each and every week to get the paper completed on time. We appreciate all the work each of you have done this semester.

We want to give special recognition to Opinion Editor Gary Kennon for the tremendous job he has done this semester on the Opinion Page. Kennon has chosen topics that are of interest to the majority of the students. He is very helpful in the ways he goes about choosing the pieces so that people aren't offended.

He doesn't just write random articles, he attends a variety of social functions on campus, and knows what topics are of the most interest. We want him to know that we appreciate all of the effort he has put forth this semester. His efforts deserve more recognition than he has gotten. Job well done!

Nancy Hicks
Jasom Mitchell
Angela Alsip
Morehead

CAMPUS COMMENT



Cara Goetz
Senior
Art
"I'm glad that they have incorporated the cross-country team on the sports page."



Tyler Adkins
Freshman
Art
"I hate Campus Comment."



Danielle Frye
Junior
Business
"I like The Trail Blazer because it covers the topics I care about."



Angel Skipwith
Senior
Government
"I like the comments to see what other people say."



Faron Grayson
Junior
Business
"I like The Trail Blazer because I finally got my picture in it."

What have you liked or disliked about The Trail Blazer this semester?

Gay students seek acceptance

ALSO members advocate tolerance and understanding

BY GARY KENNON
OPINION EDITOR

"What I usually say is, were you born straight. It is not a choice. Do you think a gay person would choose a life of hardship and prejudice?"

Barry Reynolds, president of the campus Alternative Lifestyle Student Organization (ALSO), says this is his response when people say homosexuals choose their sexual orientation. Reynolds says homosexuals are "born that way."

According to ALSO's mission statement, the group exists primarily for the purpose of supporting and promoting the welfare of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, intersexual and gay-friendly students and their allies at MSU.

April 1999, Reynolds, president of ALSO, says, "MSU is pretty small but they still have a lot of diverse people. It is important that we have a voice and be heard. ALSO provides a good way to meet people and have people you can relate to."

ALSO holds weekly meetings in the Combs Building, which Reynolds says are open to anyone on campus and the Morehead community.

Reynolds says ALSO was started about five years ago and over the years it transitioned from a social group to a political group. Now, he says, the group is a combination of the two.

Dr. Edward Breschel, faculty advisor for ALSO, says, "Gays and lesbians still suffer discrimination. It's a group of people that is basically still not accepted. ALSO needs to be around because if you're gay or lesbian or even questioning your sexuality it's a place to feel safe. It provides a place to feel accepted. They can talk about stuff bothering them without worrying."

Breschel says, "If somebody doesn't like gays it's still acceptable. Gays don't get the support for medical issues and relationship issues that others may take for granted."

Reynolds says homosexual students have to put up with a lot of different issues that most people don't even think about. They have to decide whether or not to be open. They have to worry about how people close to them, family and friends, will take their homosexuality, or whether or not even to tell

them. They have to worry about living with prejudice and persecution throughout their lives.

Reynolds says it is upsetting that many people still consider making fun of homosexuals an acceptable pastime.

"It really infuriates me, especially when someone doesn't know what they're making fun of. It's a deep hurt. They're not only making fun of me but all gay people," says Reynolds.

Reynolds says the abuse often leads to serious negative consequences.

According to statistics from

"I would like to walk down the street holding hands with a man with no repercussions: to be able to get married, get insurance and have a home."

—ALSO President Barry Reynolds

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), a gay teenager is at least four times more likely than a non-gay teenager to try to commit suicide.

Reynolds says, "Gay teenagers are more likely to commit suicide because of their parents and what they'll think. Public schools are also bad because of the taunting and teasing. They need an escape. Some people aren't strong enough to overcome."

Reynolds says gay bashing is a part of all homosexuals' lives because they are always aware it can happen to them. It can come in many degrees of violence and/or verbal harassment. It is not isolated to big cities or to really small towns but happens in all walks of life.

"Gay people know where they can't push buttons and where they can't. Like I can't walk down the street holding hands with another gay. People are afraid to come out and afraid of it getting back to someone they don't want to know. Everybody is fearful to a degree," says Reynolds.

There have been incidents of gaybashing at MSU. Reynolds says four years ago a female was attacked for being a lesbian. Also, a gay male was continuously harassed in Butler Hall until his roommate, who was not gay, was beaten up severely enough to be put in the hospital. In West Mignon Hall, a student was threatened by his roommates and forced to move out and find another room because he was gay.

"People, guys especially, are

afraid to have a gay roommate because when they find out their roommate is gay they're afraid they'll want to sleep with any man they see. They're afraid of things they don't know. People don't talk about guys and what they do hear is bad," says Reynolds.

Wright says, "There are still a lot of people who aren't accepting and aren't willing to accept and scared of things they don't understand."

From the heterosexual point of view, senior Heather McKenzie says, "I think a lot of people are insecure and think maybe if they lived with a gay person they may pick up some of the traits or become gay."

Junior Jeremy Cox agrees.

Cox says, "Straight people are afraid to live with guys because they are afraid they are looking at them and going to hit on them. They are insecure and they don't want people to think they are gay. Personally, I don't think it would be any different than living with any other new roommate. There is always a degree of apprehension."

Another problem homosexuals face is telling someone or trying to keep their homosexuality from someone.

Reynolds says, "In the past, I let a person get to know me first. After a month or so, I would tell them I was gay and we would talk about it. I don't try to hide it now."

Dating can also be a challenge for homosexuals.

Reynolds says, "Morehead is really bad. There is a large population of gay people here but they're afraid to date. It is really difficult to find someone."

But Reynolds says things are starting to change for the better.

"People are coming around a little. It used to be that nobody was gay. People didn't consider that homosexuals exist. It's a lot more open now. Stereotypes of gays have changed as it gets more visible. If people could not accept them but tolerate them it would be better," says Reynolds.

Reynolds says things are getting better, partly due to the media.


"Publicity is good so that people can see it and know it exists. People will know they are not alone."

Reynolds says all he wants for himself is the things others take for granted.

He says, "I would like to be able to walk down the street holding hands with a man with no repercussions—to be able to get married, get insurance and have a home."



Photo by Debra Perkins-Perry
Inventory Clerk Dale Jones assists student workstudy Marsha Alfrey in selecting hot cider at the MSU Bookstore's Christmas open house Tuesday afternoon.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

PICTURES: December 2, Santa Pictures, ADUC, 11-1 p.m.
 TREE LIGHTING: December 2, Christmas Tree Lighting, ADUC, 6 p.m.
 PARTY: December 2, Christmas carolling and storybook reading (following tree lighting), ADUC
 FESTIVAL: December 4, Appalachia Arts and Crafts Festival, Laughlin.
 CONCERT: December 4, "Sounds of the Season," Morehead Church of God, 7 p.m.



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Tri Sigma promotes alcohol awareness

BY CHRISTINA SERGENT
STAFF WRITER

Drunk driving is one of the most frequently committed violent crimes.

On Nov. 16 Sigma Sigma Sigma and the Residence Hall Association hosted an alcohol awareness event called *Dead Man Walking*.

Kristie Doll, coordinator and chairwoman of the event says the program represented the 48 people who die in the United States every day in alcohol related accidents.

"The reason we did this is because I've personally lost a best friend to drunk driving and as college students we are in the age range where most people are drinking," says Doll. "It's time to start realizing that we are not going to live forever and dying in a drinking and driving accident would be a terrible way to go."

able way to go."

Doll says the program was an all-day affair. It began the morning of Nov. 16, when the Dead Man Walking committee selected 48 people from different areas on campus in order to illustrate how rampant the problem has become.

The final program consisted of the reading of the fictional circumstances surrounding the students' deaths and a service for each.

"Hopefully this raised awareness about the consequences of drinking and driving and the students realized this is not a joke," says Sigma member Rhona Oplinger, junior.

Several of the people involved in the program say the program really worked and shared how it affected their lives.

"I know I received strange looks, but I felt so much better

when a professor of mine told me that you for doing this because her husband was killed by a drunk driver," says Jason Holbrook, a participant in a drunk driving victim.

Junior Kaci Lane says, "Why would anyone take the chance of this happening and drink until they are out of control or drive after drinking? This is not cool. Not being able to talk to or hug others is hard."

"This experience really opened my eyes. I am lucky. My death sentence was only several hours of silence not forever."

K.C. Bibby says, "It is scary to think that someone you know will be gone the next day. It could be the person you sit next to or someone you pass on campus. I couldn't talk to anybody and it made me realize how much I missed everyone."



Photo by Amanda Kichen
Freshman Christy Benson was one of the students selected by the Dead Man Walking committee to represent someone killed in drunk driving accident.

Sigma members say they plan on making this program an annual event to inform the students of the effects of alcohol.

FALL FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Time	MONDAY 12/13/99	TUESDAY 12/14/99	WEDNESDAY 12/15/99	THURSDAY 12/16/99	FRIDAY 12/17/99
8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	8:00 MWF Classes	8:00 TTFF Classes	NO EXAMS	9:10 MWF Classes	9:10 TTFF Classes
10:15 a.m. 12:15 a.m.	10:20 TTFF Classes	10:20 MWF Classes	NO EXAMS	11:30 TTFF Classes	11:30 MWF Classes
12:45 p.m. 2:45 p.m.	12:40 MWF Classes	12:40 TTFF Classes	NO EXAMS	1:50 MWF Classes	1:50 TTFF Classes
3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	3:00 MWF Classes	4:10 TTFF Classes	NO EXAMS	4:10 MWF Classes	3:00 TTFF Classes
6:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Exams for scheduled night classes	Exams for scheduled night classes	Exams for scheduled night classes	Exams for scheduled night classes	Commencement Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Classes meeting only two days a week should follow the exam schedule but ignore Fridays.

Night Classes - Exams will be at the regular class period during finals week.

Saturday Classes - Exams are at the regular class period on Sat., Dec. 11.

Students plan millennium trip abroad

BY JENNIFER SEWELL
STAFF WRITER

As clocks countdown to midnight at the dawn of the new century some MSU students will be spectators half a world away at London's famed time piece, Big Ben.

The CCSA, a consortium of American colleges and universities with study abroad programs and internships in English-speaking regions, is sponsoring a trip for 14 geography students to London, England on Dec. 26 to Jan. 8. Dr. Timothy Pitts, MSU geography professor, will accompany the students and says unlike New York's tradition of the ball dropping in Times Square, London provides an old fashioned method of the countdown.

Kevin Lowe, geography student who plans to attend the millennium journey says, "People jump into the fountains surrounding Big Ben as it strikes midnight."

Pitts says they will be staying near West Minister and Big Ben is very close.

"You can hear the echo of the chiming from blocks away," he says. "It's quite a privilege to witness such an event."

"The newly structured Millennium Dome, an attraction expected to draw an additional 2 million people into the city, plans to explore future life in the 21st century by showcasing the world's largest ferns while."

"My wife will probably choose not to ride but I will," says Lowe.

Pitts says Pitts' family is scheduled

to perform in concert at the Millennium Dome.

"I hope the events are free but I am sure there will be a charge for everything you try to see or do on New Year's Eve," says Pitts.

He says London's taxi service will be shutting down their service due to the demand of cab drivers on Dec. 31.

"It was not difficult to obtain plane and hotel reservations far in advance contrary to what others may think," he says. "CCSA completed our reservations which was a big help."

"I thought it would be nice to travel to London, not to mention during the new year," says Pitts. "I think more students decided to go for this reason."

He says he is not worried about the plane flight because he and the students will not be in London as the millennium begins. He admits he would not want to be in the air on New Year's Eve.

Lowe says his parents were a bit concerned when learning of his planned journey during Y2K.

"I thought traveling to London would be great, not to mention during the millennium."

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ARTS

College band hopes to rock its way to the top Eclectic group shows potential for success

BY KIM WALTERS AND
BETH CREW
ARTS EDITOR AND CAMPUS LIFE
EDITOR

It's another Monday night in Morehead and many are in the library studying, their dorm rooms watching TV, or simply hanging out, but that isn't the case for a few not so ordinary MSU students.

B.J. Russell, Ryan Hart, Chad Dickerson, Kevin Hogle and Cody Greene have gathered together in Russell's tiny house on Rt. 32 to do what they love best—play music.

But playing music isn't something the group does simply for recreation. They recently formed the group Thirty Seven and are quickly gaining popularity among many MSU students.

It was by chance the group came together to form the band.

"B.J. is my little brother in my fraternity. We would play together, but we needed a drummer. I met Kevin Hogle (the band's drummer) at Applebees, where I worked, and started talking about the band. One day I showed up at his house, asking him to be the drummer. We went from there," says Hart, guitar and back up vocals.

The band's public relations director and manager, Kelly Christian, says everyone was in the right place at the right time.

Last semester Christian visited MSU and first saw Russell and Hart perform at Headstock, a large party hosted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

"They sang the song Mary Had a Little Lamb by Stevie Ray Vaughn and that's when I said I will be hanging out with those guys next semester," says Christian.

Christian attended Lexington Community College last semester and came to visit MSU by chance. "I was with the bands music style."

The style of music arose from the group's musical inspirations Santana, Sublime, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, and Motown acts like James Brown.

But the group members say they don't put a label on what kind of music they sing.

"Our music is always changing," Russell says.

Hart says each member likes a different style of music and that brings a variety to the group.

"There's nothing else like it, but



Photo by Kelly Christian
B.J. Russell, lead vocalist, performs at a recent concert at LaFina's Restaurant.

it's catchy as hell," says Hart.

Each member has a lot of history and experience in music. Russell says he started singing in church and then moved on to his school choir and All-State chorus. He's also been to countless music festivals and won awards for singing.

"I taught myself how to play the guitar in two years. I also play the piano and write music," says Russell.

Hart says he started playing the guitar when he was 10 years old and was into country music.

"My uncle told me that if I learned how to play the guitar he would buy me one," says Hart. "I also loved country music such as Garth Brooks. I used to play with another of my fraternity brothers

Shane Smith, but I changed and started playing rock."

The lead guitarist, Dickerson, says he picked up the guitar as a way to rebel against his father who wanted him to be an athlete.

The newest member to the group is Greene, bass guitarist. Greene says he started playing when he was 12 years old.

"I thought it would be cool to be in a rock group when I got older," says Greene. "Everybody wants to be a rock star, it's just more serious now than then. I'm not excellent, but I know a lot about music but I need to work out the bugs."

Hart says Greene has been with the group for the last two shows.

Hogle is the drummer for the group. Hogle says he picked up the drum sticks when he was 8 years old.

"I played in my junior high school band and in 3 different bands in high school. I came to MSU to study music. I'm in the Fusion Ensemble with Professor Jay Flippin. The majority of the tours I've been on are with the MSU Percussion Ensemble which is nationally recognized as one of the best in the nation," says Hogle.

Hogle says he has applied to Drummer's Collective, a school in New York. The band says if Hogle is accepted they plan to travel with him during the summer to get more experience and a broader audience.

The band members say their goal is to eventually get a recording contract and tour the country.

Hogle says, "Our music is not about selling records it comes from the heart."

One of the people helping to achieve these goals is Christian.

"She's our mom, she's got the spirit in the band," says Russell. He says while Christian looks after the group she also looks after each other.

"We watch each other's back. We cook dinner for each other, get each other to go to class. We know

if one slips we all fail," says Russell.

"The band can go as far as they want to go," says Christian. "They have the potential. They are really talented but are just beginning. You can see the talent that they have."

Christian says she is in the process of getting copyright for their song "Mo."

She says, Ben Burger (student at MSU) is doing the CD design and Ben Wells (another student at MSU) has done the art work for the album.

"I also do the booking for the band and I am working on a press kit for them," she says.

Thirty Seven will be performing at LaFina's Restaurant Dec. 6



Photo by Kelly Christian
Members of Thirty Seven, from left to right, Chad Dickerson, lead guitarist; Kevin Hogle, drummer; B.J. Russell, lead vocalist; Cody Greene, bass guitar and Ryan Hart, guitar and backup vocalist.

from 8 p.m. till midnight.

The band is currently putting people on a waiting list for their first single, "Moments." The single will be \$3. If you would like to receive more information about the band e-mail them at lucky37@yahoo.com.

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Arts Calendar

- 12/1 Exhibit, The Fine Arts Showcase, Main Gallery, Claypool-Young Art Building, 7:30 p.m. Additional information call Dr. Lynne Tietzsch at 783-2136.
- 12/2 Concert, Opera Works presentation of "A Kentucky Mummer's Play" directed by Dr. Roma Prindie. Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 8 p.m., free, donations accepted. Additional information call 783-2481.
- 12/4 Open House, MSU's Kentucky Folk Art Center is hosting an open house, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Additional information call 783-2473.
- 12/5 Concert, MSU Fusion Ensemble, Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 8 p.m., free. Additional information call 783-2473.
- 12/6 Exhibit, Mail Art Show, Strider Gallery, Claypool-Young Art Building, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., through Dec. 17, weekdays, free. Additional information call 783-5446.
- 12/7 Christmas Concert, MSU Concert Choir, Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 8 p.m., free. Dr. Greg Detweiler, conductor. Additional information call 783-2473.
- 12/8 Exhibit, Fin De Siecle (End of the Century), juried show, through Feb. 18, main gallery, Claypool-Young Art Building, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., weekdays, free. Additional information call 783-5446.
- 12/8 Concert, MSU Symphony Band, Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 8 p.m., free, Dr. Richard Miles, conductor. Additional information call 783-2473.
- 12/9 Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long, Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 3 p.m., free. Additional information call 783-2473.
- 12/9 Guest Recital, Deb Eastwood, trumpet, Duncan Recital Hall, Baird Music Hall, 8 p.m., free. Additional information call 783-2170.
- 12/9 Theatre, The Balcony, through Dec. 11, Button Auditorium, 8 p.m., charge. Additional information call 783-2170.

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Eagles end year with a 51-33 loss to finish 5-5

T'birds produce two 100-yard rushers

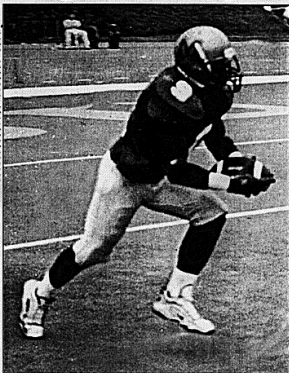


Photo by Corey K. Lippert

MSU's Marcus Turner brings the ball back for the Eagles in their season finale against Southern Utah at Jayne Stadium. SUU won 51-33.

BY CHUCK GREENSLATE
SPORTS EDITOR

Morehead State couldn't slow down Southern Utah University's strong option game, as the Thunderbirds rolled the Eagles 51-33 in MSU's final game of the year two Saturdays ago at Jayne Stadium.

"We feel like they won the ball game at the line of scrimmage," Morehead State coach Matt Ballard said. "They had the best option attack we've seen all year."

SUU produced a pair of 100-yard rushers in the contest. Brook Madsen paced the Thunderbirds with 171 yards, while quarterback Matt Cannon ran for 117.

In addition to his rushing contributions, Cannon also completed 50 percent of his passes for 101 yards.

"Their quarterback just ran their offense to perfection," Ballard said.

Eagle signal caller David Dinkins also put up some high numbers, but the bulk of his uncharacteristically came through the air, as the junior threw for 294 yards and three TDs, while running for 63 yards and another touchdown.

Of Dinkins' trio of touchdowns

passes, a third quarter strike to Mark Plintz covered a school record 97 yards. Dinkins found Mark Stephens for a 90-yard TD later in the game.

Morehead State kept their fully scholarship opponent, who Ballard said is near the Division I-AA Top 25, in check for a while.

Thanks to a two-yard scoring run by MSU's Adam Siegeman, the Eagles answered Southern Utah's first touchdown to take a 7-6 lead with 4:19 remaining in the opening period.

Cannon ran in a six-yard TD on the final play of the first quarter to give the Thunderbirds a lead they would not relinquish.

The second period was a stalemate, as both offenses were kept out of the endzone.

Southern Utah did tack on another touchdown just before halftime when Clint Brown returned an MSU fumble 46 yards for a score.

SUU took a 19-7 lead into the break and didn't waste much time building on it, as the Thunderbirds' Brook Madsen scored the second of his four touchdowns on Southern Utah's second offensive possession of the third quarter.

After swapping a few more scores, the Eagles were able to cut the deficit to 11 once again, as the fourth quarter began with SUU leading 32-21.

Morehead State was never able to get any closer, though, as the Thunderbirds rattled off 19 points in less than four and a half minutes to build a 51-21 advantage with 10:17 remaining in the game.

The MSU offense tacked on a couple of more touchdowns to make the final score appear closer but couldn't erase three fumbles and two interceptions suffered earlier in the game.

"To defeat a team that's knocking on the door of the top 25 all year long, you've got to play mistake-free football, and we didn't do that," Ballard said.

With the loss, the Eagles end their season 5-5, while Southern Utah improved to 8-3.

Ballard said he was impressed with the way his team competed not only in the SUU game but all year long.

He said he admired their efforts in the way they continually battled on and fought hard despite injuries to several key players and games

with four fully scholarship players gone.

While the sixth year MSU coach said he can live with a five hundred season, he said by no means is he pleased with it.

"It's pretty hard to satisfy a coach," Ballard said. "When you get content, you might as well give it up and go fishing or golfing."

SUU - Madison 10 run (kick failed).

MSU - Siegeman 2 run (Huffman kick).

SUU - Cannon 6 run (kick failed).

SUU - Brown 46 fumble ret. (Preter kick).

SUU - Madsen 17 run (Preter kick).

MSU - Dinkins 5 run (Huffman kick).

SUU - Madsen 21 run (pass failed).

SUU - Plintz 97 pass from Dinkins (Huffman kick).

SUU - Cannon 32 run (run failed).

SUU - Madsen 10 run (pass failed).

SUU - Cannon 47 run (Preter kick).

MSU - Stennett 22 pass from Dinkins (run failed).

MSU - Stephens 90 pass from Dinkins (run failed).

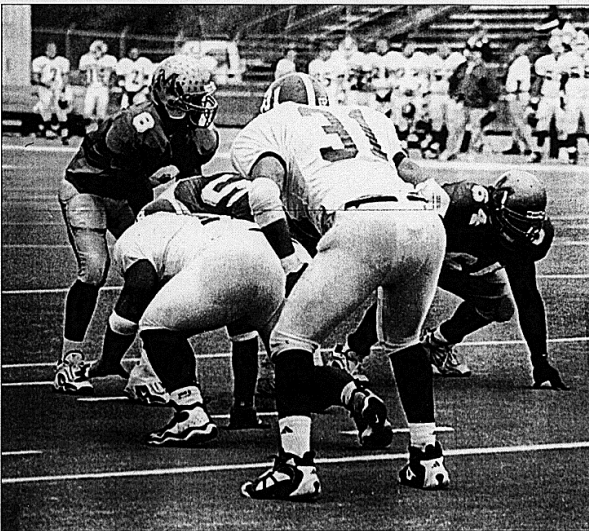


Photo by Corey K. Lippert

The Eagle offense put up 457 yards and 33 points two weekends ago at Jayne Stadium, but the blue and gold couldn't overcome five turnovers. Southern Utah's offense rattled off 471 yards, and 370 of them came on the ground. MSU finishes its season with an overall record of 5-5.

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Basketball Eagles start off 2-2

BY CHUCK GREENSLATE

Morehead State men's basketball team is off to a 2-2 start in regular season play with home wins over Virginia-Wise and Saint Francis of Indiana and a pair of road losses to Saint Francis of Penn. and Minnesota.

Brad Cleaver was the Eagles' main offensive threat during MSU's first three games, as the senior averaged 20 points per game during that span.

Along with Greg Hendricks, Cleaver had a team-high 15 points against Saint Francis a week ago from this past Friday.

Cleaver led the blue and gold with 28 points against Virginia-Wise last Tuesday and once again paced the Eagles with 17 points at Minnesota Saturday.

In MSU's 90-71 season opening loss to Saint Francis of Penn., the Eagles had four players score in double digits, but five members of the Red Flash accomplished the same feat.

The Eagles' first home appearance proved to be a successful one, as MSU knocked off Virginia-Wise 84-61.

In addition to Cleaver, MSU's Scott Charley, Kyle Imbrey and Greg Hendricks all scored in double figures.

Marquis Sykes dished off six assists, while Hendricks and Jeremy Webb each recorded four.

The Eagles tallied 36-25 at the

been searching for negative aspects of Minnesota's men's basketball program, Morehead State found some of the Golden Gophers' positive aspects, as the Eagles fell 86-67.

Minnesota totally dominated the first half, as the Golden Gophers

ly outscored the Golden Gophers 38-32 in the second half.

Morehead State entertained Saint Francis of Indiana last night. After trailing 41-37, the Eagles bounced back strong in the second half to grab an 87-76 win.

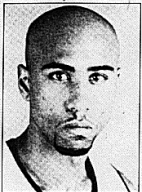
Scott Charley led MSU with a



Brad Cleaver



Scott Charley



Greg Hendricks

break but began the second half with a 15-6 run to get back into it.

MSU's 59 second half points were too much for the Highland Cavaliers to keep pace with, as the Eagles grabbed their first win of the season.

While the NCAA has recently

shot nearly 69 percent from the floor during the game's first 20 minutes, while MSU shot just better than 52 percent.

With a 54-29 lead at halftime, Minnesota built a lead that the Eagles just couldn't overcome, but MSU did chip away at it and actual-

ly outscored the Golden Gophers 38-32 in the second half.

Hendricks and Umberger each scored 19 in the game.

Morehead State will next host Ohio Valley Conference rival Eastern Kentucky. Tip off is scheduled for 8 p.m. this Saturday.

Litter's troops struggling at 1-4 Early-season injuries mounting up on MSU

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Morehead State women's basketball team began their season on Nov. 19 when they defeated Davis & Elkins, 98-77, in Johnson Arena, in Morehead.

Since then, the Lady Eagles have added four losses to their record. MSU has recently been plagued with several injuries to the team, including four confirmed stress fractures, a few sprained ankles, and a broken thumb and foot.

"All of the injuries and set backs have been very discouraging for the team," said MSU Head Coach Laura Litter. "The team has played extremely hard so far, considering all of the problems we've had."

On Nov. 20, the Lady Eagles traveled to Richmond, Ky. to participate in the Comfort Suites Tip-Off Classic. MSU fell to the College of Charleston, 62-52. Junior guard Naomi Bronson registered 18 points and six assists, while sophomore center Jodi Dempsey registered 24 points and grabbed nine boards.

The Lady Eagles fell to Wofford College, 68-52, on Nov. 21. Morehead State started off the game with outstanding shooting and prominent team defense. The Lady Eagles' advantage peaked at eight points just over four minutes into the contest. They were able to maintain an edge as late as with three minutes to play in the opening frame. However, it was over that final stretch of the first half, in which Wofford climbed into a lead it held throughout the remainder of the game. Wofford closed out the

opening period with a 37-27 lead.

MSU opened the second half with a strong effort, holding the Lady Terriers scoreless for the first three and a half minutes. With 5:40 remaining, Wofford held a 14 point advantage, but the Lady Eagles refused to cave in. Over the game's final six minutes, MSU out-scored the Lady Terriers, 16-8.

Sophomore guard Heidi Daulton tallied 17 points, including five three-pointers. Freshman forward Julie Kirkland registered 11 points

and five rebounds, while senior forward Vette Robinson registered nine points and grabbed 12 boards.

On Nov. 26, the Lady Eagles traveled to Bozeman, Mont. to participate in the GranTree Classic.

The Lady Eagles fell to host Montana State, 74-58. Bronson recorded 14 points and grabbed six rebounds in the contest. Sophomore forward Laurie Evence registered 10 points and five rebounds.

On Nov. 27, MSU fell to Bowling Green, 88-76. Poor shooting seemed to plague the Lady Eagles as they shot 35 percent from the floor, while Bowling Green shot 47 percent. Freshman forward Jody Sizemore recorded 18 points and

grabbed seven boards in the game. Robinson tallied 17 points and eight rebounds, while Daulton registered 12 points and eight rebounds.

"I think that the Montana trip was an excellent educational experience for the whole team," said Coach Litter. "We were not very productive on the court, but we played hard and represented the university very well."

On a positive note, Kirkland, an Olympic prospect in her native

Australia, was named to the GranTree Classic All-Tournament team.

"Julie had two solid games in the tournament," said Coach Litter. "She has become more offensive minded, which is what we want her to do."

The Lady Eagles will host Eastern Kentucky University on Dec. 4, with tip-off scheduled for 5:15 p.m. They will then travel to Wright State on Dec. 6.



Julie Kirkland

Upcoming Eagle Basketball Games

Men's Team	
Dec. 4	EKU
Dec. 7	WRIGHT ST.
Dec. 11	ASBURY
Dec. 18	@ Georgia Tech
Dec. 20	@ Jacksonville St.
Dec. 30	@ East Tenn. St.
Jan. 6	TENN. TECH
Jan. 8	MIDDLE TENN.
Jan. 13	@ Tenn. St.
Jan. 15	@ Austin Peay
Jan. 18	@ EKU
Women's Team	
Dec. 4	EKU
Dec. 6	@ Wright St.
Dec. 19	UNC-ASHEVILLE
Dec. 21	MARSHALL
Jan. 3	OAKLAND
Jan. 6	TENN. TECH
Jan. 8	MIDDLE TENN.
Jan. 13	@ Tenn. St.
Jan. 15	@ Austin Peay
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Sports journalists can live difficult lives



BY CHUCK
GREENSLATE
SPORT EDITOR

Nearly all sports fans are aware of the hard work and dedication that it takes to be a good athlete. But few seldomly think about how hard the media must work to cover sports successfully.

A sports reporter, like any other journalist, has to take a lot of guff. Something that many athletes forget about is the reason reporters want to talk to them. In many cases, not all, reporters hound athletes for information because it's their job.

Personally, I'm kind of an inquisitive person. I like to know why a coach did this or that and how a player feels about the game.

The problem is, most sports reporters, myself included, are fans.

This presents a problem because it is too easy to let your emotions get caught up in the game. Before you know it, you've started liking the players who work hard, hating the athletes that are arrogant, and feeling sorry for the ones who just can't seem to win.

Nobody wants to see a player get hurt or a team blown out, but it happens. When it does, I feel a good sports journalist must fight away any traces of compassion, disappointment, or delight.

If I'm covering a game and a player I know gets seriously injured, I can't be overcome by emotion. The game goes on and so does the story.

In the same sense, if I'm covering an MSU game and the Eagles pull off a huge win, I can't be jumping up and down in the stands. I must be objective.

A good reporter shows no favoritism, and must try to be fair to both sides.

Everyone that makes a good play deserves to see his or her name in

the paper or hear it on the radio, but space and time do not always allow for that.

As a result, someone's always going to be mad at the reporter, especially parents who don't think their star got his or her due.

Another fun thing about being a sports reporter is speaking with the losing coach after a game. That can be a real treat.

The coach is mad, and you know the coach is mad. You don't want to talk to the coach when he or she's mad, and the coach doesn't want to talk to you. But it's your job, and if you don't get the coach's comment about the game, everyone will read the paper will want to know why.

Will the readers think about the coach not being cooperative? No. They'll just complain about what a poor job the reporter did in covering the game.

Another thing rough about interviewing coaches and players, or anyone for that matter, is having to play so dumb.

Most sports journalists already know 95 percent of the answers to the questions they ask, but what the reporter knows isn't important.

What matters is what the coach or player says.

It's always especially fun when a coach or athlete is in a cranky mood and full of smart-alecky responses.

One question that reporters usually ask when doing a game preview is, "Coach, what do you think your team needs to do in order to win the upcoming game?"

The classic, wise remark is, "We need to score more points than the other team."

Thank God I've never received that answer. But if I did, I'd have to grin and bear it.

You can't get mad at a coach or player, regardless of how bad they treat you because you need their comments to beef up your story.

Another problem with being a sports reporter is that you get to

know so much about coaches and athletes, while they often don't even know your name.

In order to cover sports well, good reporters find out everything they can about the people involved in the game they're covering. They comb media guides, do background checks, try to discover players' and coaches' habits and tendencies, and find out about their likes and dislikes.

At times, you can feel like a stalker, and it's even worse when you're doing your homework on a player that probably doesn't have a chance of getting in the game.

Never the less, when broadcasting a game live or writing the story after it is over, it helps to know all you possibly can.

It's just weird that you know so much about someone who doesn't know anything about you.

Something you learn quick when covering sports is that most people are out for their best interests.

Everyone wants to talk to reporters after playing great and winning, but they are not so quick to speak after a harsh outing and a poor effort.

It's easy for reporters to be amazed by greatness and feel sorry for those who fall in defeat.

Sometimes winning is written about too much, while losing is not commented on enough.

Sports reporters must remember that their job is not to make someone look good or bad. It is simply to be honest and report what happened in the game.

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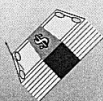
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